

# Newbie Basics

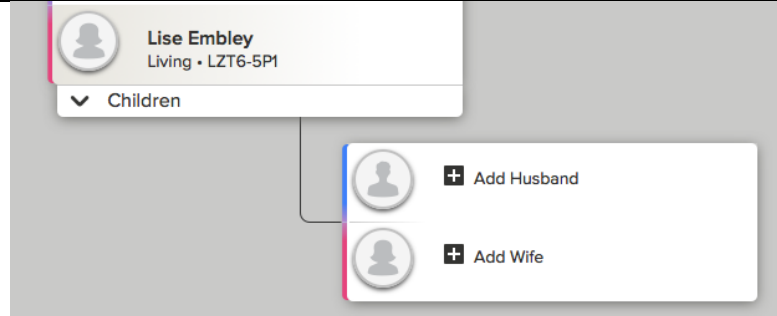
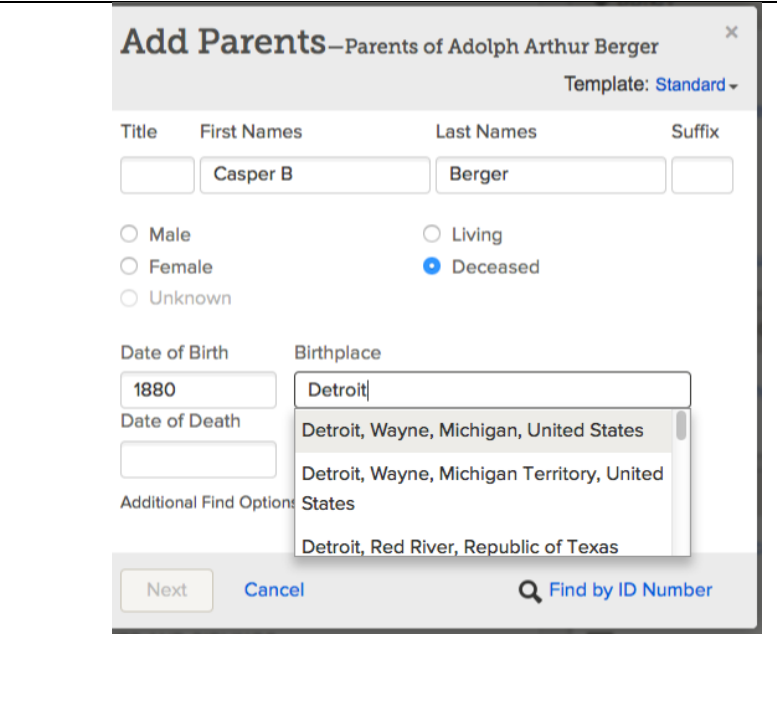
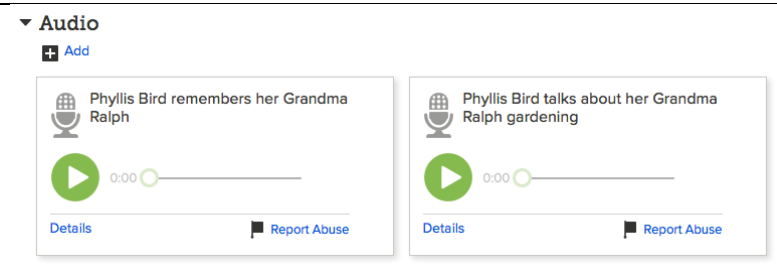
## Getting Started with FamilySearch.org

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	<b>Start with yourself</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create a FamilySearch.org account.</li><li>• If you already have an LDS.org account, you can use that.</li></ul>
	<b>Locate or create profiles for deceased ancestors.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create profiles for living parents/grandparents. (Profiles for the living are private. Photos and documents are not.)</li><li>• Use standardized formats for dates and place names. This will help with record matching and search results.</li><li>• Record a woman's maiden name, not her married name. Attaching a spouse will create the name relationship, or you can provide alternate names under "other information."</li></ul>
	<b>Capture Living Memory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focus on capturing what your oldest living relations remember.</li><li>• Fill in the blanks (B, M, D, date and place). (All of them!)</li><li>• Use the Family Tree app to record and preserve audio.</li></ul>

## Avoid wasting your time!

- Go from the known to the unknown. No “leap frog” in genealogy. (“I’m a descendant of King ...”)
- Try the fan chart view to quickly assess your pedigree.
- “Deceased” instead of a death date is a signal that more research is needed.
- Understand what constitutes family. (The grandparents of your cousin’s husband are not yours!)
- Expect to encounter some duplicate profiles. Merge them.
- Have a healthy skepticism.

## Collect documents and records.

- Ask your mom (grandma, cousin, uncle...) for family scrapbooks, papers, and letters.
- Use online resources to locate records (birth, marriage, and death certificates; military records; state and federal censuses; obituaries; newspaper articles).
- Document the whole family, including all siblings of your direct line ancestors.
- Search for records of siblings or children that might help document your ancestor.
- Use FamilySearch’s [Search Records] to search Ancestry, findmypast, and MyHeritage.
- Carefully evaluate record hints against proven information. (Reject the ones that aren’t real matches, which will help the system provide better matches in the future.)

## Record what you find.

- Attach records from FamilySearch.org directly to profiles in FamilySearch.
- Digitize important documents, photos and records, and attach them to profiles in the Family Tree. (“Have scanner/smart phone, will travel!”)
- Use RecordSearch to create and attach sources from other websites.

## Learn where to find what you need to know.

- Google
  - Family name + location + ~history
  - Public library (Many have local history collections.)
  - Cemetery (Some have an office with burial records.)
  - County clerk (Some counties have websites with records online.)
- FamilySearch wiki and learning resources
- Facebook Research groups (region/location-specific, ethnic, genealogical society, genealogy software, research methodology, beginner help, etc.)
- Family History Center
- Call FamilySearch Support at 866/406-1830.

### Williamsburg Family History Center

2017 Newman Road, Williamsburg, Virginia

757.220.0266 during center hours

757.903.5706 when the center is closed

